UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST
FACULTY SENATE
UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION COUNCIL

Minutes for the Meeting on February 26, 2024
12:15-1:30 p.m., held on Zoom

In attendance:

Christiane Healey (chair), Brent Auerbach, Jeffrey Beaulieu, Elena Carbone, Elizabeth Connor, Farshid Hajir, Colin Humphries, Beth Lisi, Alison Messier, Nancy Noble, Elizabeth Porto, Ray Rennard, Gwyneth Rost, Caralyn Zehnder, Ruth Yanka (guest: Equal Opportunity and Access)

1. Permission to record meeting given unanimously

2. The minutes from the February 5th meeting were approved unanimously with no corrections.

3. Report on accessibility from Ruth Yanka, invited guest from the office of Equal Opportunity and Access (Executive Director for Administration and Finance Operations) on current state and future plans for campus classrooms and buildings.

   a) Overview of the support offices and what each does

   b) Major Committee Support (e.g., Architectural Access Board and Accessibility Advisory Committee)

   c) ADA transition plan (period campus review – 5yrs) of campus accessibility

   d) Slideshow of active projects:

      - hardscapes
      - doors
      - adjustable tables
      - signage and lighting
      - Bartlett 65

   e) Further initiatives:

      - Glean notetaking, Accessibility Webpage
      - Contracting a consultant to review accessibility
      - Need accessible classrooms for 200-299 capacity rooms
      - Increased capacity in Morrill
      - Expanding Education and Awareness in general.

f) Progress tracked by means of the ADA Transition Plan (updated by AAB). The plan includes a list of 13 priority areas, which include classrooms, labs, and independent study spaces. Student class spaces prioritized.

g) Successes:

- Priority 1 classrooms/auditoria remained steady at 81% of classrooms
- Renovated buildings
- New elevators and bathrooms installed

h) Further discussion points:

i. Long term funding plans in place, through initiatives such as chancellor's strategic funding

ii. Funding has increased over time. Hardscape budget has increased ca. $2.5M per year compared to 1M in previous years. AAB funding has doubled to ca. $800,000 per year

iii. Equal Opportunity and Access office works with students to help determine which technologies should go into a space. There is no official mechanism for follow-up at present.

iv. Unsafe and illegal aisle/floor seating resulting from over enrollment and outdated/broken auditorium seating. Important to contact Disability Services and/or the UMass Solutions Center (545-6401) for redress. Another tool is the "My UMass" app, which has a maintenance request.

v. Many partially-updated access points still presenting problems, such as at South College. Many motorized doors are continuing to be installed on campus.

5. Reports from UEC Subgroups on Disability Services

a) Clockwork subgroup report

i. Recommendations, even as DS looks to replace this interface

- Improve navigation and make file names more informative
- Making sure emails do not go to spam and notices can be checked off as read
- Curtail or fully eliminate pdfs
- Improved links for exam proctoring, evening exams, exam registration for students with disabilities
- Clarify role of undergrad proctors

ii. Discussion. Reminder that Disability Services is not charged with having a proctoring service. Ultimately it is a faculty member's responsibility to ensure that students are

proctored (while also receiving the full support they need). A University Test Center on campus would be a great resource, but is likely years away from realization.

b) Disability Services website subgroup report: work is in progress, with report to be submitted at March 25th meeting.

6. Brief discussion of future meeting agenda items, including the UEC charge, the modified UEC membership list, better support for faculty using Canvas, and better support for integrating Canvas with Disability Services.

7. Meeting Adjourned